(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether production work in the plant has been started; and

(d) if not, by when the work will start again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was a fire in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant on 29th June'2001. A few number of power and control cables of different sizes were burnt over a length of 40 meters. Estimated loss due to fire is Rs. 9.8 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Demand and Production of Domestic Steel

†2396. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the overall domestic demand of steel and the steps taken to meet increasing domestic demand;

(b) the production of steel in the year 1999-2000 in the country and the percentage contributed by public and private sector; and

(c) the total consumption of steel products in the year 1999-2000 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The total domestic demand/apparent consumption of steel during 2000-01 has been 26.65 million tonnes (Provisional). The Indian iron and steel industry is fully capable of meeting almost all the requirements of steel in the country barring a few sizes and grades.

(b) The production of steel in the year 1999-2000 was 26.71 million tonnes. The percentage contributed by public and private sector was 42% and 58% respectively.

(c) The total consumption of finished steel during the year 1999-2000 was 25.01 million tonnes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.